

HISTORICAL ADDRESS CENTENNIAL  
CELEBRATION, 1902, OF MILTON  
NEW HAMPSHIRE SMITH

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# HISTORICAL ADDRESS









Arthur T. L. Smith—

# HISTORICAL ADDRESS

DELIVERED *at the* CENTENNIAL  
CELEBRATION, AUGUST 30, 1902, *of the*

## TOWN OF MILTON NEW HAMPSHIRE

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By ARTHUR THAD SMITH

*Principal of the Nute  
High School, 1896-1901*

WITH THE OFFICIAL PROGRAMME AND  
THE COMMITTEES OF THAT OCCASION

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*Mr. President, Citizens, and Friends  
of Milton :*

It is needless for me to say that I am gratified to be present here to-day. Although I cannot claim the honor of being a son of Milton; although it will be impossible, for obvious reasons, for me to entertain you with anecdotes and delightful reminiscences of schoolmates or school days of forty or fifty years ago, you may rest assured that no one who is here to-day takes a deeper interest in the observance of this centennial. Coming as I did to the Nute High School with the ink hardly dry upon my college diploma, it is but natural that this community should have made a deep impress upon me. It is impossible ever to repeat the peculiar

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interest that attaches to one's first field of labor. Should I much exceed the allotted threescore and ten, I could never forget the five years passed in your midst, and their pleasant associations. Nothing, I am sure, could be a source of greater gratification to me than to know of Milton's prosperity, and of the success of those whom it was my good fortune to meet as students and friends of the Nute High School.

Although Milton is the youngest town of Strafford county, save Rolinsford, one hundred years of her history have been completed. Her sons and daughters have come together from every point of the compass to celebrate the anniversary of her birth. You who own Milton as your place of nativity, have returned to-day, flushed with the success that



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has crowned your efforts in those fields to which you departed in your early years; you have returned to meet again those friends of childhood and youth, and to exchange reminiscences of those happy days of yore. Whatever may be the mingled emotions of joy as an old familiar face is seen, or of sadness at the absence of the dear one, there exists in the hearts of all a common love for the old town, its scenery, its history, its traditions—that affection which ever glows in the shrine of the inmost feelings, as undying as the eternal fires of Vesta.

Great as our regard for the town may be, however, we must acknowledge that unsatisfactory indeed would be a centennial celebration if it merely commemorated the completion of a cycle of time. Age of itself, barren of achievements, may excite curiosity,

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but never veneration. The rounding of the century mark is rather a disgrace than a credit if nothing has been accomplished worthy of the period that has elapsed. That is the supreme test. It is the parable of the pounds over again.

“Better fifty years of Europe than a cycle of Cathay,” is as true to-day as when penned by the immortal Tennyson in his Locksley Hall. Every town as well as every man has a duty to perform in the particular phase of human activity which has been chosen. A failure to meet this duty is a disgrace. An inert, slothful existence is a reproach. The life of Nathan Hale given for his country at twenty-one is far more worthy of commemoration than sixty years of a Benedict Arnold.

But what makes for character in a

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town? What is the measure of achievement? It is the same as employed in the case of an individual. To command the honor of the world, the history of a community must manifest an unswerving devotion to country, a sturdy patriotism, as evidenced by the willing and ready sacrifice of lives and wealth in times of public peril. As the miser counts his gold, so many towns and cities exult in the possession of beautiful and costly buildings with luxurious decorations. That is not the true measure of success. Too often the security, liberty, and peace that render these luxuries enjoyable were purchased largely through the expenditure of blood and wealth by others, whose sacrifices for the common good have left them impoverished, while the benefits have been

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reaped by those who evaded the call of duty. It was unaffected, simple, republican Rome, let us remember, that furnished that sinew to the Roman arm which enabled the effete empire to live in luxury for so many decades.

In the great crises of this country, in the times that tried men's souls, the record of the town of Milton has been one of which every citizen may be justly proud. It is that which renders this centennial so pleasurable to those who have returned to-day. The record of this hundred years may be opened to the world and not a page need be effaced nor a single line be dimmed. It is a record of self-sacrifice and devotion to country that would bring honor to any town of any nation and is a worthy reflection of the sturdy character of the

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builders of this community. It is with commendable pride, then, that we lay this record before the world to-day to show that Milton is ready to do again what she has done in the past. As the philosopher's stone of old, such a history must transmute those who come in contact with it into what is far better than the gold of the alchemist—a generation of men and women made nobler and more patriotic by its example.

The earliest permanent settlement made in this county, and indeed, in this state, was at Dover, then called Cochecho, in the year 1623. For many years Cochecho was a frontier town, and through fear of the Indians few dared to venture far away from the old block houses there. It was of those old times that, in Whittier's "Snowbound," the mother

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“ Told how the Indian hordes came down  
At midnight on Cochecho town.”

It was on the night of the twenty-seventh of June, 1689, you remember, that the famous massacre occurred at Dover; when the block houses were burned, the stern Major Waldron tortured to death, and so many pioneers killed or carried into brutal captivity. It is certain that the braves who gathered to perpetrate that dastardly deed came largely from the North, and it is more than probable that these hills and ponds were witnesses of their journey down along the old Winnepesaukee trail, and of their return with scalps and captives on their way to Montreal. By a strange coincidence, at the allotment of land in the second division of the Northeast parish of Rochester, Colonel Richard Waldron, a lineal descendant of the Major, became original proprietor of

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the entire territory of what later became Milton Three Ponds, where many of the villagers now reside.

In these early perils, the pioneers of Milton did not share. When the first permanent settlement was made here, the red man's power had been broken. It is true that tradition records the presence of the Indian in these woods. There are stories of trappers who, penetrating this locality to hunt the game that was so plentiful here, when suddenly attacked by Indians near the Northeast pond, defeated and slew the redskins, burying their bodies near the shore. But it may truly be said that among the hardships of the early pioneers, the perils of death by the tomahawk was not one.

When the town of Rochester was settled in 1722, what is at present

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Milton was a portion of it, and later became known as the Northeast Parish. Of course, the early history of this town was associated with that of Rochester. That, together with the fact that important early records were destroyed by fire, renders it very difficult to determine with perfect accuracy when the first settlements were made here. It is generally conceded, however, that the first permanent residence was made in what is now the southern part of the town in about the year 1760, by Jonathan Twombly, on what has been sometimes called the "Bragdon Farm." It is recorded that Richard Walker was a very early settler, and it is possible that he may have antedated Twombly, but probably he came at about the same time. In 1771 or 1772, John Twombly (who does not



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appear to have been related to Jonathan) established his home in what was known as the Varney neighborhood. One Jenkins, who lived upon Goodwin hill at the time, was his nearest neighbor. Plumer's Ridge was reached in 1772 or 1773, probably by Benjamin Scates. Beard Plumer and his brother Joseph, sons of John Plumer of Rochester, settled at the Ridge at a very early period, however, and it is possible that they may have preceded Scates. James C. Hayes, David Wallingford, William Palmer, Elijah Horne, Moses Chamberlain, and others, were also among the first. It was probably not until 1785 or 1786 that the West Branch River was settled. Paul Jewett, Amos Witham, Reuben Jones, and others, were the first settlers. The pioneers at the Three

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Ponds were Samuel Palmer, Levi Bergen, John Fish, Paul Jewett, Pelatiah Hanscom, Robert McGeoch, and others.

During all of this period what is now Milton was the Northeast Parish of Rochester, and considerable difficulty seems to have been experienced in arranging for the religious instruction of the section, which finally culminated in separation. There appears on the Rochester town books a record of a vote relative to this matter as early as 1774, to the effect that preaching be furnished to the more remote inhabitants of the town in proportion to the taxes paid. This provision appears to have been inadequate, as in 1780 the voters in the upper parish objected to being taxed for building a new meeting-house at Norway Plains, the old one at Haven's

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Hill being unfit for use. Soon dissatisfaction so spread that many absolutely refused to pay the minister's tax, and the way was commencing to open toward separation from the mother town. Finally it became apparent to all that it was too great a distance for those residing at Shapley Mills (now Milton Mills), Plumer's Ridge, and Palmer's Mills (now Milton proper) to attend church at the Haven's Hill meeting-house, and consequent injustice for them to be taxed for the maintenance thereof when practically deprived of the benefit. A petition for separation was accordingly presented to the legislature of New Hampshire at the June session of 1802 by Captain Beard Plumer, then one of the representatives from Rochester. On June 11, 1802, it was voted to incorporate the Northeast

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Parish of Rochester as the town of Milton, and a charter to that effect was formally granted.

The records show that the first town-meeting was called by William Palmer, Esq., and convened at the tavern of Lieutenant Elijah Horne (at present the residence of James L. Twombly), August 30, 1802, and it is of this occasion that to-day is a commemoration. At the first meeting it appears that Beard Plumer was chosen moderator, Gilman Jewett, town clerk, William Palmer, John Fish, and John Remick, Jr., selectmen. The first official act of this board occurred just one hundred years ago to-day, and was the licensing of Lieutenant Horne to keep a public tavern. The first annual town meeting, however, was not held until March 14, 1803, when Beard Plum-

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er was again chosen moderator, Gilman Jewett, clerk, William Palmer, John Fish, and Ezekiel Hayes, selectmen. Beard Plumer was elected representative. The record shows that 134 votes were cast for governor at the first election, John T. Gilman, receiving 103, and John Langdon 31.

The scope of a short historical sketch does not permit an exhaustive examination of the details of Milton's history. Interesting as these may be, they must be left to the precise antiquarian or genealogist. It may be well, however, to note, in passing, a few of the events that have been most prominent, with a reference here and there to the several interests with which the town has been mainly identified.

The first tavern was erected probably by James Hartford and Robert

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McGeoch, shortly after 1780, the exact date being placed by various persons from 1783 to 1787. It was situated on land about where the present railway station now stands, the group of buildings extending a considerable distance along the river bank there. The hotel itself was about 75 feet long and possessed the characteristics in which the host was wont to revel in the olden days. There was the broad, generous hall with capacious bar-room at the left, boasting the huge fireplace with its Yule-tide logs. Benjamin Palmer was the first innkeeper. Between 1820 and 1830 this old tavern became one of the stations of the stage lines to the White Mountains, and as the post-office was situated there, all mail for the north from Dover and beyond was sorted and placed in pouches for the three

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northern stage roads, Ossipee and Conway, Parsonsfield and Fryeburg, Milton Mills, Acton, and Shapleigh (Maine). Thus by a curious coincidence, the site of the station in olden times is yet that of the railway station for the village to-day. The coaches arrived there at about twelve o'clock, so that dinner was served to all before the journey was resumed. For a part of the day, at least, the village bustled with activity, the excitement continuing for a length of time proportionate to the importance of the news received. The various events of the hour were, of course, discussed with dignity and authority by the Solons and Oracles of those days about the tavern fireplace.

Of the public buildings in town, perhaps the most interesting as well as the most venerable is the present

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town house on the Ridge. It was first erected as a meeting-house in accordance with a vote of the town to that effect at the annual meeting in 1802, John Fish, Beard Plumer, and Gilman Jewett being the executive committee. The lot was purchased of Thomas and Aaron Downes for \$26, and the building was completed at a cost of nearly \$2,400 by Caleb Wingate, Capt. Daniel Hayes, and Gilman Jewett. The pews were subsequently sold for nearly \$2,000, so that the net cost of the structure to the town was not large. It is recorded that it was not considered amiss in those days, even at the raising of the frame of a meeting-house, to lubricate the work with rum in large quantities, and the books show that the town paid \$10 for the amount consumed on that occasion.



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The first service was held in 1804, and the building was constantly in use as a religious edifice until after 1830. We are accustomed to-day to receive our religious instruction in sugar-coated, homœopathic doses, that is, in services composed of short sermons with excellent singing, while personal comfort is regarded by cushioned pews, and in winter by a comfortably warm auditorium. We cannot but think the treatment allopathic and heroic to the last degree in the olden days, with a sermon of one and one half to two hours in the morning, and after an hour's nooning, another of equal length in the afternoon with the patient auditor seated for these four or more mortal hours in the uncushioned, back-breaking old box pew, with no fire during the winter except individual foot-stoves for the

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ladies. Old Zeno, the Stoic, would have been at a loss to have arranged a service more true to the tenets of his sect, at least as far as studied discomforts to the flesh are concerned. There were no regular services held at the Ridge meeting-house after 1838. After that it was closed during the winter months, but Parson Willey preached there once a month during the rest of the year until 1845. As the parish had become divided by the forming of a church in Milton Mills in 1833, in the Three Ponds in 1835, and in West Milton, in 1841, the Ridge meeting-house finally went out of use and was sold in 1855 to the town, being dismantled to suit its present purpose.

Before Milton was set off from Rochester as a separate parish, it was dependent for the services of a pas-

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tor upon Parson Haven, who attended to his many duties as best he could until about 1800. The first parson who was employed by the town of Milton after its incorporation was Rev. Reuben Nayson, from Wakefield, who was paid the munificent salary of \$82, for services during the year 1801. The first preachers occupying the pulpit at the old Ridge church were Rev. Gideon Burt and Rev. Christopher Paige, who officiated there in 1804.

It appears that the way of the transgressor was hard financially in those early days as well as spiritually. There were sins of omission as well as those of commission, and the privilege of erring in the former seems to have been paid for in cash. The records show that during the year 1803 the tything man, William Pal-

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mer, paid into the town treasury the sum of \$4, which had been collected from those who had committed the heinous crime of absenting themselves at various times from divine worship. It is interesting to conjecture how large the revenue to the town would be were this fine in vogue to-day.

To James F. Maston belongs the honor of being the first teacher employed by the town of Milton. He kept the winter term of 1803 in a school building erected in a spot on the Ridge, just in the rear of where Mr. Frank Horne's barn stands to-day. He received as wages the sum of five pounds four shillings (about \$26), and was subjected to the indignity of "boarding around." The summer term of 1804 was kept by the first woman employed as teacher by

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the town of Milton, Miss Mary Walbridge, and two pounds eight shillings (about \$12) was paid to her. Since that time the schools of Milton have been conducted in much the same manner as one would expect from a country community. The conventional "little red schoolhouse" at the foot of Silver street, violating tradition by being built at the foot of rather than at the top of a hill, was constructed in 1827, and was for many years the forum in which the wielder of the birch and rule reigned supreme. The building was in 1853 altered into a two-storied structure and as such was occupied as a school until about 1890, when it was sold by the town and remodeled into the structure that it now is. The present grammar school, erected in 1891, still retains a reminiscence of the old

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structure in the form of the "bell of 1855," which still calls together the scholars of to-day as it did their fathers and mothers. The central school building at Milton Mills has for a number of years accommodated the higher grammar and lower high school grades there.

Schools of a so-called high school standard have been established in Milton at various periods but by private individuals, the town being content to hold strictly to the old law requiring faithful instruction in the three R's with Latin as an extra in the shire and half-shire towns. The first attempt at a high school was made by the Rev. Ezra S. Anderson, in 1832, but perhaps the most successful was the classical institute which was held in the old Union meeting-house, remodeled in 1866 for that pur-

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pose. The present Nute High School was founded in 1889, along with the Nute Library, in accordance with the provisions of the will of Lewis Wors-ter Nute, a native of this town, who died in 1888. There are few towns which possess the opportunities for schooling that the town of Milton does to-day. It should be a matter of the greatest pride to Milton people that such excellent educational facilities are for their children to enjoy. And, further, it should be a matter of congratulation that a former towns-  
man has seen fit to endow Milton with a school which, under the able management of the present trustees and efficient instructors, must be regarded as one of the finest institutions of its character in the state. Not only for this benefaction of \$125,000 should Mr. Nute's name be gratefully remem-

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bered; his other gifts were many and varied. He left the sum of \$50,000 for the public schools, \$10,000 for the building of a chapel at Nute's Ridge, with \$30,000 for the support of the preaching there, and \$50,000 for other benevolences, including the Nute fund for the worthy poor.

The towns are very rare that possess such excellent facilities for the development of water power as Milton. The declivity of the Salmon Falls river from its source to the sea is 499 feet, and a fall of 275 feet, over one half of the total, is within the limits of Milton. The official report of the United States government, after pronouncing the Salmon Falls river superior in available water power to all but one of the streams of equal size on this portion of the Atlantic slope, alludes in most flattering terms



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to the remarkable opportunity for development here, recording the fall in Milton to be by far the largest on the river.

It would be very interesting, did time permit, to trace the history of the various manufacturing industries that have been established both in this section of the town and at Milton Mills. Suffice it to say that the first dam was built by Samuel Palmer, in about 1784, on the site of the present main dam at Milton village. Saw-mills and gristmills were built on either side. Then there was the old Jones saw and gristmill at the Flume, washed away by the freshet of 1786. The Leighton privilege, so called, was also one of the earliest and was located near the upper leather board mill. It was in 1816 that Thomas Leighton erected there a

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cotton mill which he operated until 1837. The other privileges both here and at Milton Mills were also utilized at an early period.

It may occasion considerable surprise to the public in general to learn that the water power that can be utilized at Milton is far superior to that available to the Cocheco Manufacturing company of Dover, and at least fully equal to that of the Great Falls Manufacturing company of Somersworth. Such is the fact nevertheless. The United States government report records, as utilized by these companies, a fall of 36 feet in Dover with 1000 horse power, and a total fall of 62 feet in Somersworth, with about 2500 horse power. It is entirely feasible to utilize for one plant in Milton, from the pond to and including the flume privilege, a fall of 140 feet,

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which with a run of 12,000 cubic feet of water per minute, a very conservative estimate, will develop between 2500 and 3000 horse power. This does not include the fall of 47 feet at Milton Mills, with 231 horse power, nor that of Spaulding's upper mill, with 21 feet fall and 375 horse power. Thus the total developed and undeveloped horse-power at Milton may safely be estimated as from 3,300 to 3,500 units. It is a matter of history that the Great Falls Manufacturing company first determined to locate at Milton about 1820 and in fact had chosen the site, but were driven away by a most senseless series of lawsuits occasioned by shortsighted and grasping riparian owners. Let us see what this mistake of some of the early settlers has meant to the town. If the water power of Mil-

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ton were utilized in the manufacture of cotton cloth each horse power would mean 48 spindles. This would give the town about 120,000 spindles and as one person is employed for each 80, there would be from 1,500 to 2,000 operatives. Had it not been, then, for the petty bickering and shortsighted selfishness of some of her early settlers, Milton would be to-day a city of from 10,000 to 15,000 inhabitants, with all the wealth and prestige that such a population would bring. As the tremendous natural and artificial advantages exist here yet, however, it is not impossible that the town will reap some day the fullest advantage from its resources.

Important as may be the development of industry, the supreme test of the character of a town is, after all, its attitude toward the government in

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time of need. By attitude I do not mean the academic resolves so often passed, engrossed, and forwarded to the authorities. These perhaps have their place as indicative of the transient enthusiasm that pervades a community. But when the smoke has cleared away, as it were, the historian of after years in coolly and candidly weighing the value of the service which has been rendered can be influenced only by acts. "Deeds not words," if demanded of an individual, are doubly required of a community. With this as the ultimate test it may truly be said that few towns have equaled the town of Milton in sacrificing for the good of the nation. Few towns have so consistently met the needs of the country with such promptness or such vigor. The patriotism of the town of Milton has not

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been of "the stuff that dreams are made of"; whenever necessary it has manifested itself in a practical manner and with no uncertain ring.

Although at the time of the Revolution Milton was a part of Rochester, it is recorded that many who lived within the confines of the present town left their homes to join the Continental army. One of the first men who enlisted from Rochester was John Bergin of the Three Ponds, who placed his name on the roll June 2, 1775. After the close of the war he resided in Milton until about 1800, and then removed to Lancaster where he died. Then there was Timothy Ricker, also, who was of such magnificent physique that he served as one of the bodyguards of the great Washington himself. Daniel Cook, William Palmer, Enoch Wingate, Joseph

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Pearl, Samuel Nute, and many others enlisted and served with distinction. Milton was represented at the historic field of Bunker Hill by William Warren, who was wounded at that famous engagement.

In the early struggles of the Revolution, where New Hampshire men were engaged, what is now the town of Milton was represented. And the fields were many. It is not, perhaps, a matter of common knowledge that at the defence of Bunker Hill, for which Massachusetts obtains the credit, a majority of the men engaged were from New Hampshire. An ox load of the powder used on that memorable occasion arrived just the night before from Durham, in time to be served out at Bunker Hill. This was the powder that had been taken by New Hampshire troops in their fa-

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mous assault upon the royal fortress, William and Mary. The victory at Bennington, too, although upon the soil of Vermont, was fought and won by General John Stark, at the head of his New Hampshire veterans.

The first struggle in which this country was engaged after Milton had been duly incorporated was the War of 1812 with Great Britain. There was no town that expressed its resentment at England's impressment of American seamen more than Milton. Fifty-four men were furnished for the army and navy from this little town, more than one third of those able to bear arms going to the front. The proportion of few towns was larger. It was as a thanksgiving for the close of this war in which such a large number of Miltonians participated that the famous celebration was



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held April 13, 1815, in the tavern of T. C. Lyman. How the old walls must have rung with cheers for the heroes of the struggle, Gen. Jackson and Commodore Perry; how many a tankard was drunk to their health!

The Mexican War was in reality of short duration, and waged almost entirely by troops of the West and South contiguous to the territory invaded, New England being opposed to and taking practically no part in the struggle.

Now let us turn to the brightest page in the history of Milton, the era before and during the great Civil War. Never was a community so stirred on a question of national moment. And well it might have been, for Milton had as neighbors and associates towns with war records that are a pride to them and an

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honor to the state—Farmington, the birthplace of Henry Wilson, and Rochester, the natal town of New Hampshire's most famous senator of ante-bellum days, the great John P. Hale. It was Senator Hale, you remember, who ten years before the actual opening of the great Rebellion fought single-handed, upon the floor of the Senate, Calhoun, Foote, and Jefferson Davis; who replied with such crushing force to the "Seventh of March speech" of the great Webster himself. Twice nominated as a candidate for the presidency, he spent the best years of his manhood in crushing the power of slavery and lived to see the fullest consummation of his wishes in the Emancipation proclamation and the surrender of Lee at Appomattox. It is small wonder that stirred by such men, Milton should

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so soon and so emphatically have taken her stand on the great question of slavery. Strong resolutions written and advocated by Parson Willey were passed by his church. Nor did the people end with resolutions. Their sentiments having been clearly expressed in words, were next embodied in tangible acts. Again we need no eulogy by a prejudiced advocate. Let us glance at the public records. No sooner had the firing on Sumter ceased and the request of President Lincoln for 75,000 volunteers been received than the names of Milton men were found on the rolls. Their acts of bravery were recorded on nearly every field during the four years' struggle.

The returns show that the vote of the town in 1860 gave Lincoln 252, Douglas 92, Breckinridge 6, and Bell

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5, a total of 355 votes being cast at the election. Taking that number as a fair estimate of the able-bodied men in town, allowing the physically incapacitated among those who voted to balance the able-bodied non-voters and those who stayed at home, we find a most remarkable showing. Of this 355, 150 enlisted—one half of the male population able to bear arms thus going to the front. And further, the quota required from Milton by the drafts was 91. This number, large as it was, was exceeded by twelve, the town furnishing no less than 103 men in response to the call of the government. This record is one of which every citizen of Milton may be justly proud, and one that will not suffer by comparison with that of any other town in the state.

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Nor is that all. The cost of the great Civil War was enormous. The fact that \$5,000,000,000 were expended cannot of itself be comprehended by the average man, but when we remember that it was the most extravagant war of the century, if not of all time, perhaps we may appreciate its immensity. The Napoleonic wars combined cost only \$3,289,000,000, the great Franco-German war only \$2,500,000,000, the Mexican war a paltry \$57,000,000. It was, then, of the utmost importance that money should be voted by the towns and cities for bounties no less than that soldiers be furnished. The records show that \$285,941,036 were thus raised. New Hampshire furnished \$9,636,313. As the population of the state was at that time 326,073, we find that by proportion

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per capita Milton with 1,862 people should have given about \$55,000. But Milton met the test as well with money as with men. Her proportion was again exceeded, the town voting during the war, no less than the sum of \$79,500, practically \$80,000, for the support of the Union. Taking into consideration, also, the small relative valuation of Milton at this time, this sacrifice demonstrated in no uncertain manner the patriotic spirit of this community.

These, then, are the actual records of the attitude of Milton during the great crises of our national history, and it is truly a record of unswerving patriotism and devotion to country that would do honor to any town beneath any flag. If there is a community in the United States that deserves to possess a soldiers' monu-

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ment, it seems to me that one should be erected here and to the suggestion already made by another the town should make hearty response. Let us recognize in a substantial manner the honor brought to the town by the bravery and unselfish patriotism manifested upon so many fields by the sons of Milton.

The ninth day of February in the year 1800 was, the historian tells us, a gala day in Paris. Napoleon Bonaparte had recently returned from the conquest of Egypt, and in the glorious pageant that was passing through the streets of that gay capital were gathered the trophies that he had stolen from the pyramids. But amid all this splendor, continues the chronicler, some traveler from a far off land would have observed something strangely incongruous with the

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gaiety of the occasion. The standards of the victorious legions were draped in black. And, if the historian is to be believed, the English fleet upon that day lay at anchor in the harbor of Dover, across the channel. The colors of England's men of war were at half mast. Nor would the wonder of the traveler have abated had he been told that this common homage paid by two hostile nations was in honor of a man who, at no time in his life, held a higher office than that of general in a provincial army; who, twenty years before, had wrested an empire from the one and, at the time of his death, was endeavoring to the best of his ability to humble the other. Great as this homage may have been, however, it was as nothing in comparison to the sincere grief that pervaded every American home, that



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reached the heart of every man, woman, and child across the Atlantic when they heard that Washington was dead. What did all this mean? Was it a tribute to Washington's brilliancy as a commander? No; he was overshadowed by the great Napoleon of almost his own day. Was it a tribute to his keenness and astuteness as a statesman. No; William Pitt of England was his equal if not his superior. No; it was that homage that is ever paid by the world when there passes from the arena of active life a noble human character.

These qualities that make for the ideal of manhood are the same that, becoming attributes of a community, cause its name to be handed down from age to age. In the many crises of this hundred years **Milton** has been

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weighed in the balances and has never been found wanting. Let not the old traditions fail. The honor of the town has been nobly upheld during the past century. May the historian of 2000 record deeds by those of this age consistent with the illustrious example of the fathers; may the unturned page of the future disclose an unswerving devotion to the right equally worthy of the world's emulation.

## EVENTS OF THE DAY



## EVENTS OF THE DAY

The centennial celebration of the town of Milton, held August 30, 1902, was in honor of the one hundredth anniversary of the first town meeting. This meeting convened at the tavern of Lieut. Elijah Horne, August 30, 1802, only a short time after the charter, which gave Milton its independent existence, had been signed by Governor Gilman. This instrument had been granted at the June session of the legislature of New Hampshire at the petition and largely through the efforts of Capt. Beard Plumer, one of the representatives from Rochester, who, with others, felt that the time had come for Milton to sever the ties which bound her to the mother town.

At the annual meeting held in

## EVENTS OF THE DAY

March, 1902, it was voted to celebrate in an appropriate manner the closing of the first century of the town's existence. An appropriation was made and a general committee selected. As a result of the able and painstaking efforts of this committee, together with those chosen to assist, the observance of the centennial was made eminently fitting to mark the close of the first century of Milton's history.

Saturday, August 30, 1902, was a beautiful day; there was scarcely a cloud in the sky and the temperature was ideal for the purposes of the occasion. Sunrise was accompanied with the ringing of bells and a cannon salute of thirty-three guns. One hundred guns were fired during the day, a second thirty-three at noon and the remainder at sunset. Although the celebration had practically

## EVENTS OF THE DAY

begun on Friday night with the huge bonfire on the summit of the historic Mt. Teneriffe, it was not until Saturday morning that the guests commenced to arrive in large numbers.

Every incoming train was heavily laden and hundreds came in teams from surrounding towns. It was the largest crowd that Milton ever saw, being variously estimated by the press at from seven to ten thousand.

From 8:30 to 10 o'clock field and water sports were held; from 9 to 10 o'clock the Hanson American band of Rochester gave a concert on the Upper square. Then came the street parade. This was a fine feature of the day, including many beautifully trimmed floats and private teams, bicycles, and not a few grotesque and humorous make-ups. The marshal

## EVENTS OF THE DAY

was Major Charles J. Berry, Milton Mills, N. H.; assistant marshal, James F. Reynolds, Wakefield, Mass.; aides, Clifford A. Berry and Charles Manser, Milton Mills; Walter Holden, Wakefield, Mass.; Scott Ramsdell, Samuel E. Drew, and Fred S. Hartford, Milton.

Following the parade a good old-fashioned New England dinner was served in large tents, on the Nute High School grounds, to over two thousand people. It was at high noon, also, that the new town clock in the Congregational church was officially started. This was presented to the town of Milton by Mr. Albert O. Mathes of Dover, N. H., as a memorial to the Rev. James Doldt, who was pastor of the Congregational church from 1850 to 1871.

Promptly at two o'clock the com-



## EVENTS OF THE DAY

memorative exercises began in the grove, on the Nute High School grounds, Hon. Elbridge W. Fox, of Milton Mills, Ex-Senator from this district, presiding as President of the day. In addition to those upon the official programme, Mayor Bradley of Rochester spoke in behalf of the mother town and Mr. Edward P. Nichols, of Lexington, Mass., treasurer of the Great Falls Manufacturing company, delivered a short address. The violin used as an accompaniment to the singing was played by Miss Annie B. Kimball, of Milton, while the old violincello, which took the place of the church organ in the early days of the town, was restrung and played by Mr. Sumner Hodsdon of Dover, N. H.

One of the most attractive and appropriate features of the day was the

## EVENTS OF THE DAY

collection of antiquities in the old Worcester House, itself past one hundred years in age. These rare and valuable articles, from 75 to 200 or more years old and gathered from many sources, by Mr. Albert O. Mathes, of Dover, N. H., were intimately connected with the early history of the town. Many of the interesting buildings in the village had placards placed upon them, giving the date of their erection and other matters of interest. Among these were the following: The home of Dr. Stephen Drew, 1820-1873, built by John Bergin in 1773; the house in which Lewis W. Nute was born; the building formerly the Union meeting-house, 1838-1859; John Fish's house, 1794, where was located the first post-office in 1818; the site of the first tavern built in 1787

## EVENTS OF THE DAY

by Benjamin Palmer; the house of Thomas Leighton, 1810-1860; the site of the house of Gilman Jewett, first town clerk, 1800; the site of the first tannery, owned by John Bergin, 1773.

The celebration was, in every respect, an unqualified success, and reflected the greatest credit upon all concerned. All of those present, whether natives of the town or friends, felt that the observance was in every way worthy of the occasion and of Milton.

The following is a copy of the official programme issued at the time. The paper of this programme was manufactured in Milton by the Milton Board and Paper company, and the leather board covers were also made in Milton by Spaulding Bros.

## PROGRAMME OF THE DAY

On the eve of the Centennial a huge bon-fire will be started at 8:30 o'clock on the summit of the historic Teneriffe mountain.

SUNRISE: Cannon salutes and ringing of bells.

One hundred guns will be fired between sunrise and sunset.

8:30 to 10 A. M.: Field and water sports, consisting of one-half mile foot race, one hundred yard dash, boat race, tub race, sack race, three-legged race.

9 to 10 A. M.: Band concert at Upper square by Hanson's American band, Rochester, N. H.

10 A. M.: Parade, Major Charles J. Berry, marshal; Samuel E. Drew and Fred S. Hartford, assistants.

12 M.: Salutes and bells; at this hour will be started the new town clock, presented to the town of Milton by Mr. Albert O. Mathes of Dover, N. H., as a memorial to the Rev. James Doldt, who was pastor of the Congregational church from 1850 to 1871.

12-2: Dinner.

## COMMEMORATIVE EXERCISES

2 TO 4 O'CLOCK.

Music—Hanson's American band.

Address of Welcome—Mr. Albert O. Mathes.

Address of President of the Day—Hon. E.  
W. Fox.

Invocation—Rev. John N. Lowell, Haverhill, Mass.

Singing—Coronation—accompanied by violin and 'cello.

Original Poem—written for the occasion—  
Rev. Frank Haley.

Singing—America—accompanied by violin and 'cello.

Original Poem and Short Address—Mr. Joseph P. Swasey, Rochester, N. H.

Historical Oration—Mr. Arthur Thad Smith.  
Short Addresses.

Singing—Auld Lang Syne—accompanied by violin and 'cello.

Benediction—Rev. John Manter, Rochester, N. H.

Band concert, 4 to 5 o'clock.

Sunset salutes and the ringing of bells.

# COMMITTEES

## GENERAL COMMITTEE CHOSEN AT TOWN MEETING, MARCH, 1902.

Hon. Charles H. Looney,\* Hon. E. W. Fox, M. A. H. Hart, M. D.; F. H. Lowd, A. A. Fox, Charles A. Jones, Bard B. Plummer, Henry H. Townsend, Frank G. Horne, N. G. Pinkham, Rev. Robert M. Peacock, Rev. Charles B. Osborne, Rev. Myron P. Dickey and the board of selectmen, consisting of Haven R. Jewett, Joseph H. Avery, and Fred B. Roberts, with Town Clerk H. L. Avery and Town Treasurer Elijah T. Libbey.

M. A. H. Hart, M. D., was chosen chairman of the general executive committee, Harry L. Avery, clerk, C. D. Jones, M. D., treasurer.

The following committees were selected at subsequent meetings of the citizens :

Invitation Committee—Robert M. Looney chairman; Hon. E. W. Fox, George H. Plummer, Albert O. Mathes, H. L. Avery.

Programme Committee—M. A. H. Hart, M. D.

Printing Committee—John H. Twombly.

\* Deceased.

## COMMITTEES

I. D., chairman; Forrest L. Marsh, I. W. Jones, W. E. Looney.

Committee on Speaker and Music—Albert D. Mathes, chairman; Hon. E. W. Fox, F. G. Horne, M. A. H. Hart, M. D., Rev. C. B. Osborne, Rev. M. P. Dickey.

Press Committee—W. E. Looney, chairman; M. W. Dickey, Harry B. Amey.

Dinner Committee—A. A. Fox, chairman; board of selectmen consisting of Haven R. Jewett, Joseph H. Avery, and Fred B. Roberts, C. D. Jones, M. D., Mrs. Mary Wallingford, Mrs. Geo. Fall, Mrs. Charles H. Looney, Mrs. F. D. Pike, Mrs. George H. Plummer.

Committee on Grounds—Executive committee of the Nute High School, C. A. Jones, chairman; W. E. Looney, B. B. Plummer, to act in conjunction with F. P. Jones, F. B. Roberts, and George H. Plummer.

Reception Committee—Robert M. Looney, chairman; John U. Simes, Rev. M. P. Dickey, Charles W. Gross, M. D., H. F. Horne, Bard B. Plummer, Jr., F. H. Loud, Henry B. Scates, Mrs. A. A. Fox, Mrs. F. P. Jones, Mrs. J. B. Hart, Mrs. I. W. Jones, Miss Minnie E. Hussey, Miss Lucia Plummer, Miss Sally

## COMMITTEES

Avery, Mrs. Annie E. Cook, Mrs. Sarah P. Haley, Miss Annie J. Horne, Miss Maude Horne, Mrs. W. T. Wallace, Miss Susan P. Haley, Mrs. H. L. Avery, Mrs. Lillian Wentworth, Mrs. N. G. Pinkham, Mrs. John Avery, Mrs. H. S. Mason, Miss Sarah Duntly, Mrs. J. P. Pinkham, Mrs. Annie M. Kimball, Miss Elfrida Peacock, Miss Fannie I. Hayes, Miss Sadie Twombly, Miss Fannie L. Hayes, Mrs. J. L. Twombly, Mrs. S. E. Drew, Mrs. Clara Corson, and Mrs. C. A. Gilmore.

Parade Committee—W. C. Hall, chairman; J. H. Avery, George E. Wentworth, N. G. Pinkham, G. I. Jordan, Forrest L. Marsh, Mrs. J. B. Hart, secretary; Miss Elfrida Peacock, Miss Susan P. Haley, Miss Ruth Fall, Mrs. H. S. Mason, Mrs. S. E. Drew, Miss Fannie L. Hayes, Mrs. A. A. Fox, Miss Lucia C. Plummer.

Registration Committee—J. H. Twombly, M. D., chairman; B. B. Plummer, Jr., Miss Susan P. Haley.

Salute Committee—George I. Jordan, chairman.

Sport Committee—Wm. T. Wallace, chairman; J. G. O'Laughlin.













